

# HARRISBURG ONLINE

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Presented by *Greenlee Partners*

**December 19, 2025**

## DRIVING IN A WINTER TRAFFIC JAM

Today begins the holiday travel season which runs through January 1st, according to the PA Turnpike. Approximately 675,000 travelers are expected today on "(a)n unbroken ribbon of concrete cutting through mountains and across valleys, bypassing towns...", the most traffic of the travel period. Travelers are encouraged to visit <https://www.511pa.com/> to check road conditions before traveling. "No stop signs, no intersections, no need to worry."

## FOUND

After a six-day manhunt, the suspect of Brown University's mass shooting has been found dead in a storage facility in New Hampshire. The suspect, **Oscar Perez**, had been a student at the University in 2000 but had no current connection with the University. Perez is also suspected of being the killer of MIT Professor **Nuno F Gomes Loureiro**, both of whom attended the same University in Portugal.

## BIG BEAUTIFUL BUD

In an executive order, President **Donald Trump** has moved that marijuana be reclassified as a Schedule III substance, on par with ketamine and some steroids, as opposed to its current Schedule I status in the company of heroin and LSD. This change would open up possibilities for CBD access and further medical research into the plant. This also would allow for a new Medicare program to provide access to legally sourced CBD at no cost assuming it was prescribed by a doctor. Marijuana decriminalization remains a state issue.

## BEAM HIM UP

The U.S. Senate confirmed SpaceX flight commander **Jared Isaacman** to serve as head of NASA earlier this week. He was originally nominated for the position before having the nomination withdrawn earlier this year. While some have expressed concern over conflicts of interest with potential connections to **Elon Musk**, Isaacman received bipartisan support with a 18-10 vote in the Commerce Committee and a 67-30 vote in the full Senate.

# STOP THE CLOCK

Bytedance, parent company of TikTok, has agreed to form a new U.S. joint venture to prevent the app from being banned in the U.S. The ownership of TikTok USDS Joint Venture LLC will be split between Oracle having a 50% share, private equity firm Silver Lake owning 15%, and UAE-based fund MGX owning 30.1% with the remaining 19.9% being held by Bytedance. The deal is set to close January 22nd of next year with additional details in the agreement yet to be worked out.



## *Happy Birthday*

### **Today:**

- State Representative ***Eric Nelson***
- ***Dominic D. DiFrancesco II***, Treasurer, Dauphin County
- ***Melanie E. Brown***
- ***Nicole L. Weaver***, Administrative Assistant, Office of State Representative Carl W. Metzgar

### **Saturday:**

- Former State Senator ***Rob Teplitz***
- Former State Representative ***Rosita C. Youngblood***
- Former State Representative ***Lita Indzel Cohen***
- ***Michael Kane***
- ***Marjorie O. Rendell***, Senior United States Circuit Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd circuit
- ***Lauren Gutshall***, Vice President of Government Relations, Schafer Government Affairs

### **Sunday:**

- Former State Representative ***Barry Jozwiak***
- ***Sean Schafer***, President & CEO, Schafer Government Affairs Inc.
- ***Charles Patterson***, President, Shippensburg University
- ***David Maser***, Attorney, Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll
- ***Otto Banks***, Regional Director of Business Development, ECG Engineering



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